



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

(Left-right) Technical Sergeants Bill Graham and Louis Da Foe, and Senior Airmen John Ferrell and Jason Honeycutt, all from the Air National Guard's 203<sup>rd</sup> Red Horse Flight, Virginia Beach, Va., use gravel and pumps to drain the water table around runway 15. The area is being prepared for the installation of an improved barrier arresting kit.

## Flightline facelift

*Red Horse team, contractors upgrade CAFB airfield systems*

**By Capt. Beth Szucs**  
437 AW Public Affairs

437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron troops have paired with Red Horse squadrons from Virginia and Florida, and local civilian contractors to give Charleston AFB's airfield a facelift.

The construction projects focus on upgrading landing barriers and navigation aids along with smaller scale work to improve signs and pavement, and will improve both C-17 and transient aircrafts ability to land safely here.

"During the closure (runway 15), which will last 30-40 days, we are fixing mandatory and information signs, to include new distance markers, working on airfield lighting and fixing the barrier," said Larry Gill, CAFB's airfield manager. "Our local CE troops are also sealing cracks and making pavement repairs. We are going to take total advantage of this time to complete as much as possible."

The first of the two larger construction projects is the replacement of the barrier at the end of runway 15. The 203<sup>rd</sup> Air National Guard Red Horse Flight and the 202<sup>nd</sup> ANG Red Horse Squadron, units of deployable civil engineers, started construction on March

See CONSTRUCTION, page 2

## 437 OG spouses get first-hand look at C-17: AF couple gives briefing on preparing for "long haul," coping with deployment

**By Capt. Beth Szucs**  
437 AW Public Affairs

Spouses of 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group personnel got a chance to see first-hand what their husbands and wives are doing for the war on terrorism and learned ways to deal with long deployments Saturday.

An orientation flight and briefings from Chaplain (Col.) Ren Vandesteeg, chief of chaplain assignments, Randolph AFB, Texas, and his wife, Carol, were scheduled to help spouses prepare for the long-haul, said Maj. Tom Griffin, 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron director of operations.

"It is like the chaplain said," said Griffin. "We are running a marathon, and we are only at mile two. We want to give spouses the tools to deal with the long separations they might see

in the future."

The day started with an orientation flight to North Field where 60 spouses got to see a demonstration of the unique capabilities of the C-17, including an airdrop of cargo, an assault landing and a combat offload. All of these are capabilities the C-17 has used in operations since Sept. 11.

"It was really fun," said Deana Copher, whose husband is in the 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron.

After the flight, the spouses were taken to the Charleston Club where they received briefings from OG Warrior Spirit briefers and the Vandersteegs.

"The colonel started with a joke to get across the point that you need to accept that we are at war," said Monica Zazworsky, whose husband is the squadron commander of the 15<sup>th</sup> Air-

lift Squadron. "Accept that there are going to be deployments, and then start from there."

She said he pointed out that once spouses accept the situation, they need to have faith in something besides themselves, something stronger than they are, and then take steps to deal with their situation.

"If the stress is too much, then you need to take the steps to ask for help," said Zazworsky.

Griffin said this was a key point the 437 OG leadership wanted to get across.

"If a spouse needs help, all they need to do is ask," said Griffin. "Your husband or wife isn't going to get in trouble because you needed to call and get help with something."

Carol wrote a book, *When Duty Calls: Coping with Deployments*, which ad-

dresses topics including the stress of separation, children's responses to parents' deployments, reunion expectations and communicating effectively during the deployment.

She spoke about her personal experience with getting a two-hour notice that the colonel was deploying. His orders were cut for 90 days, but he ended up being gone 215 days.

Zazworsky said Carol wanted the spouses to understand that just because the orders are cut that doesn't mean things won't change. Carol says spouses need to be flexible and know that their spouse is doing something really important. She also stressed the importance of spouses reassuring the deployed member that the homefront is ok.

See O-FLIGHT, page 2



## IN THE NEWS

## CAFB Chiefs' Group inducts two as honorary chiefs

By Lt. Col. Ed Memi  
437 AW Public Affairs

Two local leaders were honored when they were named as honorary chief master sergeants by the Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group at a special ceremony in the Charleston Club March 14.

Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander, and Tony Kolgaklis, GEICO Direct Field Representative for the Charleston area, received the top enlisted honor for their outstanding contributions to the enlisted workforce.

Chief Master Sgt. Carl Austin, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron and president of the Chiefs' Group, summed up their accomplishments.

"The two we honor here today have earned the right to be addressed as an honorary chief master sergeant,"

Austin said. "No one has given it to them. It's the result of hard work, loyal service and distinctive accomplishment."

Only a few people have received this special designation by the CAFB Chiefs' Group.

The honorees were greeted by a special honor guard cordon and sat before the crowd, while their sponsoring chiefs read a number of their accomplishments. Family members placed chief master sergeant stripes on their sleeves as they stood before a staircase showing every enlisted rank with chief master sergeant at the top.

The inductees were also presented with a chiefs' coin that they are expected to carry with them at all times. Each honoree also repeated the chiefs' oath, promising to continue their high standards.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert

Langston, 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group, sponsored Findley while Command Chief Master Sgt. Harvey Hampton sponsored Kolgaklis. Each sponsoring chief had to provide an explanation on why they nominated their respective candidates.

Langston cited Findley's concern for the enlisted force as the reason for nominating him. Hampton explained Kolgaklis supports every quarterly awards luncheon, Airman Leadership School graduation ceremony and is active in many events on base.

Findley, in a video shown to the crowd at the ceremony, explained the significance of this honor to him.

"I've been pretty overtaken with emotion. To be honest, I've had very few personal honors in my Air Force career and I can't think of one that means more than this one," Findley said. "I remember 1976 when my father,

who was a career enlisted man, pinned on my second lieutenant bars. I remember him saying 'I don't know where you are going or what you ambition is, but one thing you need to do is to listen to your mid-level and senior NCOs.' To this day, I've taken that to heart."

In his remarks, Findley promised to take care of the enlisted workforce, which he called "the heart and soul" of the Air Force. He added that he doesn't think this honor will ever be matched in his professional career.

Langston explained that nominating Findley was an easy choice.

"General Findley believes that CAFB is blessed with the most professional airmen dedicated to doing the mission," he said. "Some will look at General Findley today and say he is a lucky man. I will tell those people that the definition of luck is when

preparation meets opportunity. General Findley has prepared for this opportunity every day of his life by leading and caring for the enlisted troops."

Kolgaklis echoed the same overwhelming sentiments in his taped video message and remarked that being an honorary chief master sergeant allows him to continue to be a part of Team Charleston.

"I'm in pretty good company here and it's nice to see General Findley get promoted twice," Kolgaklis said.

He said he was very humbled and considered this recognition the most significant professional recognition in his career.

"I routinely tease Tony about never being able to find him in his office," Hampton said. "He is either at CAFB or with the Coast Guard attending whatever we have going on. He really does try to get out and support us."



Photo by Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Tyrona Jackson

Spouses of 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group members await the departure of their orientation flight onboard a C-17. The orientation also included a briefing.

## O-FLIGHT

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When one wife asked if she should tell her husband when things go wrong at home, Carol said yes, but after the fact, then reassure him that everything is taken care of and to not worry.

Zazworsky said Carol also talked about how important it is to keep the lines of communication open between the deployed member and the family at home.

Carol mentioned that writing letters, sending e-mails and making phone calls to keep in touch. She said it is key to set out guidelines, such as good times to call home, before the member deployed. Once

deployed members get to a location they will be staying at, families can then determine a better schedule of when to communicate.

"It was awesome," said Zazworsky. "The flights were fun, the day was well-organized, and the speakers were informative. Every one of the girls from the 15<sup>th</sup> (AS) were coming off the planes with smiles on their faces."

"We did a drawing to pick people to sit up in the cockpit for take offs and landings, and two newlywed brides were chosen," Zazworsky continued. "One has been married one week and the other three. That was really good for them."

Griffin agreed.

"It went really well, and the spouses seemed very happy," said Griffin.

## CONSTRUCTION

continued from page 1

4, and will do two-week rotations of personnel until the eight-week, \$608,000 project is complete, said Rob Crossland, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron civil engineer.

"If we ever had a fighter aircraft here with a tailhook and he had to abort on takeoff or had trouble coming in on approach, he would drop his tail hook and engage the barrier to keep from going off the end of the runway," said Crossland.

"We are the primary divert base for over a thousand fighter aircraft along the eastern seaboard," said Lt. Col. Steve Shope, 437 AW chief of safety. "We are open 24-7 so it was very important to all the fighter bases around here that we got this barrier fixed. There was definitely Air Force level interest so we could continue to support Air Combat Command and NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) missions."

Crossland said the barrier used to be further down the runway but about 10 years ago it was determined that it needed to be moved further up the runway. When it was moved it was put in an expeditionary mode, which means temporary mode.

"Every year they had to dig this thing up, recertify and then replace it," said Crossland. "AMC decided it was time to fix it and gave us a deadline of June 2002 to finish the project."

The system is called a Barrier Arresting Kit 12, and will be installed above ground due to the water level here, said Crossland. It consists of a brake drum like what is on a B-2

bomber.

"There is a large steel cable with donuts around it so the cable sits off the runway enough for the tailhook to come underneath and catch it," said Crossland. "When the aircraft engages the system it senses that and uses a hydraulic system to gradually release pressure to slow the aircraft down."

He says this prevents the aircraft from feeling a sudden jerk when it lands.

The second project on the flightline is to install an upgraded navigation aid for aircraft coming in on approach. Local contractors are doing the work, with the Navy overseeing the construction. According to Crossland they have completed about 40 percent of the \$424,000 project and expect to finish by early July.

The new system is called a precision approach path indicator, said Crossland.

"PAPI's are an updated visual glide path indicator," said Shope. "This modernization definitely makes night flying safer at Charleston, and is a great upgrade for our flightline."

"When the pilots are coming in they see four lights," Crossland said. "The color they see tells them if they are too high or too low."

The old system was outdated and they couldn't purchase replacement parts any more, said Crossland. He explained that although it wasn't impeding flying operations, PAPI is definitely an improvement to the old system.

"We are all working together to put all the eggs in one basket without breaking any," said Gill. "Everything is on target, and if the weather holds out we will finish on target."

# 13 masters promoted to senior

Air Force Personnel Center officials have announced a 10.09 percent selection rate to senior master sergeant for the 02E8 promotion cycle—the highest seen since 1987 and an increase from last year's promotion rate of 8.36 percent.

The Air Force selected 1,544 of 15,307 eligible master sergeants for promotion and plans to release its list of selectees March 20. The average selectee has 5.11 years time in grade and 19.73 years time in service.

Over the past few years, senior master sergeant promotion rates represent a significant improvement when compared to percentages in the early to mid 1990's, personnel officials said.

Promotion rates are projected to remain fairly consistent through 2003 for all grades as the Air Force reaches its goal of increasing the Top-5 enlisted grade mix to 56 percent of the enlisted force, according to officials.

The average total score of selectees during the cycle was 674.79 points. Average selectee score breakdowns are:

- 36.44 points, time in grade

- 20.75 points, time in service
- 134.99 points, performance reports
- 19.77 points for decorations
- 68.91 points for U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination
- 393.93 points for evaluation board score

Those selected will be promoted to senior master sergeant beginning in April.

Thirteen Charleston AFB master sergeants were selected for promotion:

Chris Bidmead, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing; George Broome, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron; Louis Canjar, Air Force Combat Climatology; Anthony Conney, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group; Faye Ellison, 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group; Theron Florence, 437 MXS; Bryant Garrison, 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron; Richard Graves, 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron; Tony Helton, 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; Kenneth King, 437 AW; Noble Lisenbee, 437<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Dental Squadron; Michael O'Hara, 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron; James Scanlan, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron; and Samuel Schmitt, 437 AGS.

**(Information provided by AFPN)**

# 701 AS crew flies med-evac mission

By Staff Sgt. Mary Hinson

315 AW Public Affairs

A crew from the 701<sup>st</sup> Airlift Squadron transported two ailing soldiers from Uzbekistan to Germany during a medical evacuation flight Feb. 25.

The crew, which came out of Germany, flew six hours to pick up the patients and bring them back to first-class medical care.

During a routine delivery to Uzbekistan, the crew received notification 30 minutes out they would be transporting patients, said Capt. Jason Crandall, 701 AS C-17 aircraft commander.

"Med evac flights are chosen by which plane is available at the right time," he added.

After landing in Uzbekistan, the C-17 refueled, reconfigured and took off within a couple hours, said Senior Airman Chris Coch, 701 AS loadmaster.

Once airborne again, the medical team and the flight crew had to come together as a team to ensure the safety of the patients.

"They have a mission, and we have a mission. As long as everyone remembers why we are there, things get done," said Coch.

The pilots' mission was to try to make the flight as smooth as possible.

"I facilitate open communication lines between me and the medical technicians so we are all working together," said Crandall.

The medical care director coordinates with the pilots to determine special requirements, such as what altitude to fly at because of the oxygen or whether to just get to the destination as fast as possible. In return, the pilots kept the MCD informed of the flight time, weather and turbulence.

"We just tried to make the flight as comfortable as possible and assist the med crew in any way," added Maj. Paul Stevens, 701 AS C-17 aircraft commander.

For the crew, even though it is a routine mission, medical evacuations are also special.

"You get so used to flying cargo and troops," said Crandall. "(The medical evacuations) kind of get you in the heart a little bit more than other missions."

But some are even more touching when they are flying fellow aircrews.

"It could have been someone I went to pilot training with or someone I have flown with before," said Crandall.

For Coch, the realization hit close to home.

"Anyone of us could be in the same place the next day," he said.



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Spotlight

**Retirement ceremony:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Support Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Donald Gaudette today, 10 a.m., at the Community Education Center. A luncheon at the Charleston Club at 11 a.m. will follow the ceremony. All Team Charleston members are invited to attend. For more information, call Master Sgt. Doreen Castle at 963-5725.

**Daedalion luncheon:** The Swampfox Flight of the Order of Daedalions will host Lt. Gen. Thomas Baker (retired), the order's national president, during a luncheon at the Charleston Club Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Current and prospective Daedalion members can RSVP to Capt. Ravi Chaudhary by phone at 963-2184 or 963-2153, or by e-mail at ravi.chudhary@charleston.af.mil.

## Around the base

**Housing:** The Base Housing Office will be inspecting the lawns and carport areas of base homes. Residents should remember to keep their lawns cut, sidewalks edged and carports free of clutter. A list of people who provide lawn care service is available at the housing office. For more information, call 963-3868.

**Education:** The Base School Committee is holding a meeting Tuesday, 7 p.m., at the Family Support Center. At the meeting, parents will have the opportunity to talk with the principals from their children's re-

spective schools. The committee is also currently working on initiatives involving transfers, emotional needs and parental involvement. For more information, call 963-2202.

**Women's history:** There will be a motivational Women's History Breakfast Tuesday, 7:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. To RSVP, call 963-6024 or 963-6703.

**ESC:** The Enlisted Support Club will meet Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., at Sticky Fingers near Northwoods Mall. RSVP by calling Marcia Lytton at 760-6892.

**Volunteers:** Charleston AFB will host its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day celebration Wednesday. More than 1,100 Charleston-area 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from 11 schools will visit the base picnic grounds for a day of environmental education. Exhibitors from various base, local, state and federal agencies will present lessons in recycling, energy conservation, wildlife protection and other environmental subjects. The children will have the opportunity to participate in Earth-friendly games, hands-on presentations and a formal tree-planting ceremony. The event is hosted by the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Management Flight. Volunteers are needed to make the event a success. For more information, call Keith Thompson at 963-4020 or Al Urrutia at 963-4978.

**Education fair:** A "Spring Fling Educational Fair" is scheduled to take place Wednesday, 11 a.m.-1

p.m., in the Community Education Center Ballroom. Refreshments will be served, and there will be a drawing for prizes at noon. For more information, call 963-4575.

**Circus:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron has discounted tickets available for the Cole Brothers Circus. The circus runs Wednesday-Saturday at the Ladson Exchange Park Fairgrounds. The coupons, which can be picked up at any services facility or the BX, are good for free admission for children 12 and under and \$5 off any adult admission. The regular price for adult tickets is \$14 and \$16, depending on show times.

**Scholarships:** The Air Force Association will present \$1,000 scholarship checks to the winners of the Air Force Spouse Scholarship Program March 29, 11:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. The winning spouses are Tina Mendoza, Amanda Huckins and Susan Copeland. The spouses program is designed to encourage 30 Air Force spouses worldwide to pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees. Col. James Joyce, 315<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group commander, will present the checks as the acting president of the Charleston AFA in Col. David Snodgrass', 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group commander, absence.

**Women's history:** There will be a Women's History Month Retreat Ceremony March 29, 4 p.m., at the base flagpole. Volunteers are still needed. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tiffany Richardson at 963-6962.

**Closure:** The Commissary will be closed March 31 in observance of Easter.

**Parenting:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Behavioral Sciences Flight is offering a free, "Parenting Your Teenager" class for parents of teenagers. The class will start April 8 and meet for six consecutive Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more information, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

**Stepfamily:** The Base Clinic is offering a "Strengthening your Stepfamily" Class beginning April 9. The class will run for five consecutive Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The class will teach skills to help make stepfamilies work. For more information, call Jim Hernandez at 963-6504.

**YOWS:** There will be a Year of the Warrior Spirit Warrior Run April 18, 11:30 a.m., at McCombs Way track. At 3 p.m., there will be a YOWS briefing at the Charleston Club. For more information, call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Catherine Barker at 963-3385.

**SIU:** Southern Illinois University is holding open summer registration for its one-year Workforce Education and Development program now through May 1. Classes will begin May 4 and conclude April 2003. For more information, call 552-7320.

**Scholarship:** The Order of Daedalions is sponsoring two flight scholarships in the amount of \$750 each, with the potential of matching funds from their national headquarters. The scholarships are for prospective and enrolled college students who demonstrate the desire and potential to become commissioned military pilots. Further scholarship guidelines are available at [www.daedalions.org](http://www.daedalions.org). For more information, call 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joel Eppley at 963-2150.

**Recall:** The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is recalling approximately 89,500 rear-engine riding lawn mowers. The fuel tank on the recalled mowers can crack and leak fuel, posing a burn or fire hazard to consumers. The mowers have 30-inch cutting decks and were sold under Murray, Murray Select, Craftsman and Wizard brand names. AAFES sold model No. 30560x99 under the Murray brand. Customers in the continental United States should contact the nearest Murray dealer for free installation of a replacement fuel tank.

## Family Support Center

**Prenatal Orientation Class:** Today, 9-11:30 a.m. Call 963-6787 for details.

**Give Parents a Break:** Saturday, 1-6 p.m. Call 963-5684 or 963-4366 for details.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

## Charleston Warrior of the Week

### Senior Airman William Giles 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron

Senior Airman William Giles works as a customer service representative for the 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron Flightline Support Facility.

Giles is responsible for issuing tools to flightline personnel. The former crew chief has been doing the customer service job for more than two years, and he has been working the midnight shift the whole time.

"I don't mind the hours," said Giles. "I like knowing that something I'm doing plays an important role in the C-17 mission."

On a nightly basis, Giles said he checks out entire toolboxes, and even individual hand tools, to anyone who has work to get done on the flightline. He is responsible for issuing tools, inventorying the tools when they're returned and making sure nothing comes up missing.

Aside from his everyday job, Giles also works as the bench stock monitor. Whenever possible, Giles keeps a supply of commonly-needed screws and bolts on-hand for quick issuing to C-17 mechanics.

Like many Charleston AFB members, Giles was recently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Unlike most other CAFB members, Giles was lucky enough to deploy with his wife, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gwen Giles, also from the 437 AGS.

When he's not deployed or issuing tools, Giles stays busy by taking college classes and staying in shape. He recently finished his Community College of the Air Force degree, and he should have a bachelor's in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle in January.



Photo by Senior Airman Jason Smith



# Through the e

*This is the second part of a two part series about the 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron. The idea of "Through the eyes of the lens" is to show two aspects of the unit's mission, videography and photography, through an accomplished individual from each of the two sections. Look back to the March 15 Airlift Dispatch for a story about Staff Sgt. Mark Kenyon, an aerial combat videographer, who has served the Air Force, "Through the eyes of the lens."*

**By Senior Airman Jason Smith**  
437 AW Public Affairs

"I was looking at the worst humanity has to offer," said Tech. Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez, a military photojournalist with the 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron. "Then, right when I think there's no hope, I saw that one act of kindness by a little girl."

That "one act of kindness" Gonzalez speaks about is a memory he said he will carry for the rest of his life.

Shortly after the bombing of a crowded civilian marketplace in Sarajevo, Bosnia, in 1994, Gonzalez arrived to document the incident with photos. Gonzalez said his first impression was one of disbelief.

"I shot the exact spot where the bomb hit," said Gonzalez. "It was a little hole about three inches around. It's hard to believe something that made that tiny hole did so much damage to human life."

Shortly after leaving ground zero, Gonzalez went to the "hole in the wall" airport to shoot the medical evacuation of the wounded. As if the casualties weren't bad enough, Gonzalez said the number and extent of the injuries were severe. Stretchers on the ground were filled with suffering humans. Missing body parts were commonplace. In the midst of all the chaos, Gonzalez saw a little girl who looked hungry.

"I remembered I had a little bag of M&Ms stuffed away in my ruck," said Gonzalez. "I pulled out the bag and handed it to the little girl expecting her to smile and run off to eat the candy. Instead, she took the bag, opened it immediately and started passing out individual M&Ms to everyone around. I just knew at that moment that there was still hope for humanity."

Even in 1993, Gonzalez was not new to photographing war. While stationed in Germany, Gonzalez's commander had to send the photographer to Desert Storm.

"He called me in the office, and he was real apologetic," said Gonzalez. "He said he had never sent anyone into combat and he didn't know what to say. He felt terrible about telling me I was going to Desert Storm. The whole time, I was thinking, 'Finally, I get to see combat.' I guess in your youth, you don't think about death."



A Marine waits atop his armored personnel carrier on board a C-17 Globemaster III. The aircraft was on the way to a forward location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## "The thing that stuck in my mind after shooting those photos was that all this guy had to do to save his own life was lower his arms."

Many adventures later, in 1995, Gonzalez completed the one-year Rochester Institute of Technology, N.Y., Advanced Photojournalist Course and was sent to Charleston AFB to be a part of the 1 CTCS. Gonzalez said almost every career

photographic documentation of a variety of death-related situations. Gonzalez said he prepares his younger troops to face the stomach-turning scenarios by reminding them, "It's just your job. You have a job to do, and you have to do it." However, early on in his career, Gonzalez found a different method of coping that works for him.



Lt. Col. Richard Stonestreet (center), 366<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron commander, is shown at Andrews' memorial service at a forward location. Stonestreet was overwhelmed by a lost military member. Stonestreet received the flag on behalf of Andrew's family.

field has an elite group, and in the visual information field, that elite group is combat camera.

"I wanted to be a part of the cream of the crop," said Gonzalez. "There are great photographers in any VI (visual information) shop, but I wanted to go outside the home and test my abilities. You have to prove yourself when you're young."

Proving yourself means different things to different people, and photographers are no exception. Combat camera personnel are responsible for

photographic documentation of a variety of death-related situations. Gonzalez said he prepares his younger troops to face the stomach-turning scenarios by reminding them, "It's just your job. You have a job to do, and you have to do it." However, early on in his career, Gonzalez found a different method of coping that works for him.

"I get in the frame of mind that the person is sleeping," said Gonzalez. "I don't think about the wounds or the other stuff because I can't be distracted if I'm going to do my best on the job. As long as I think the person is sleeping, it doesn't bother me."

During a recent 118-day TDY to the Afghanistan area, Gonzalez had to photograph the first American servicemember casualty of Operation Enduring Freedom. He said it was a moment he definitely wasn't looking forward to, but he knew





TURE

# yes of the lens



ander, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, is comforted after Master Sgt. Evander delivered the traditional folded flag presented to the survivors of Andrews' widow and family. Andrews' accidental death Oct. 10 was the first

he had to do it.

"I'm not callused about it," said Gonzalez. "I just understand it's my job. After I took the required photos, I wanted to shake the guy and say, 'I'm done taking photos. You can wake up now.'"

One situation Gonzalez had to shoot that left an impact on him was a suicide. Gonzalez was called to take investigative photos of a man who hung himself from a doorknob with a belt.

"I just don't understand how someone can be that down that they think there's nothing to live for," said Gonzalez.

"The thing that stuck in my mind after shooting those photos was that all this guy had to do to save his own life was lower his arms."

Gonzalez takes the bad with the good, and he said more often than not, he's shooting what he loves most; human-interest photos.

"I love shooting humanitarian missions," said Gonzalez. "My favorite shots are of our servicemembers helping people. You take a shot of a soldier handing out the contents of his daily MRE to hungry people. To me, that shows the finest fighters in the world (U.S.

servicemembers) doing the greatest humanitarian duty (handing out food)."

Appreciation for all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces is another motivator for Gonzalez. Not to take anything away from the other branches, but Gonzalez said he is most impressed by the discipline of the Marines.

"I was talking to this one Marine who said he hadn't showered in 30 days (in the Afghanistan area)," Gonzalez said. "When I asked him why, he said, 'They haven't gotten to me yet.' Thinking like an Air Force guy, I asked him why he didn't just go shower. He said, 'If I just go shower, who will watch my post?'"

"When I thought about it, he was right," continued Gonzalez. "This was a young guy too. Their (Marines) discipline and acceptance of orders amazes me. You'll never hear me bad mouthing a Marine."

Gonzalez says he plans on sticking with Combat Camera until "God makes me retire." His wife, Anita, and 14-month-old daughter, Alyssa, understand his passion and love he has for his job.

"My wife supports me," said Gonzalez. "The day she's had enough, I'll hang it up. She knows how bad I miss her and my daughter when I'm gone, but she also knows how much I love this job."

Part of the job Gonzalez said he loves so much is making sure the less experienced members of his unit are ready to face the challenges that await them. He spends hours upon hours of his off-duty time working on better ways to train his young troops.

"I could easily be the one sending one of my troops to war someday," said Gonzalez. "I need to be 100 percent sure that I've given them all the tools they need to survive and succeed in any situation they face."

Writing about Gonzalez is not an easy job. Putting all the amazing things he's been through onto paper could easily fill a library. In his 16-year career so far, Gonzalez has seen and done more than most people could see and do in 100 careers. Like any true photographer, he just hopes one of his photographs has had a positive impact on society.

"Deep down, all photographers are idealists," said Gonzales. "We want to make a positive change through an image. I just hope I captured that one picture that made a difference for someone." **(Photos by Gonzalez)**



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cherie Thurlby, 1 CTCS



Four airmen rest while waiting for site surveyors to map out the next row of tents at a forward location. Air Force personnel from various bases worked through the night to build tent city in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The dust and concrete-like ground surface makes the work hard and laborious.

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## COMMENTARY

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

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## Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604.

Mail to: 437 AW PAI

102 East Hill Blvd.

Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154

or send to:

[dispatch@charleston.af.mil](mailto:dispatch@charleston.af.mil)

## Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander  
**Brig. Gen. Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II**

Chief, Public Affairs  
**Lt. Col. Edmund Memi**

Chief, Internal  
**Capt. Beth Szucs**

Editor  
**Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter**

Staff Writer  
**Senior Airman Jason Smith**

## Commander's Cup awarded; base shines on ECAMP

By Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley  
437 AW Commander

Once again, the 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron has claimed the Commander's Cup Trophy for a large unit for their accomplishments on the field during base intramurals sports. The 437 MXS achieved a total of 137 points for the season by winning two league championships, two base championships in basketball and flag football, and was the base runner up in bowling and softball.

Winning the small unit award was the 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron. Although the 437 SFS did not win any first place finishes, their consistent performance throughout the year in every sport (flag football, bowling, basketball, volleyball, softball and golf) ensured their victory with 122 points overall. See the article on page 15.

We received an excellent outbrief from the Air Mobility Command Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program team. The team examined our environmental processes and gave us a good report card on our programs.

We have an outstanding record on the environment and team members validated our many good programs while also noting some areas for improvement. Special thanks to Glenn Easterby, members of the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Management flight and Team Charleston for their efforts. The feedback that we received will only make our environmental program that much stronger.

The ECAMP assessment team also identified several outstanding performers in their respective areas of responsibility. They were **Julie Schoen**, Charleston AFB Hazardous Waste Program; **Henry Pape**, Charleston AFB Hazardous Waste Program; **Terry Pugh**, Auto Skills Center; **Tech. Sgt. Shea Saul**, 437 MXS Hazardous Waste Program; **Nicole Shope**, external ECAMP coordinator; **Ashley Allinder**, Air Program manager; **Keith Thompson**, Natural Resources Program; **Dale Cook**, 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group environmental manager; and **Luis Class**, Charleston AFB Water Quality Program.

We had a number of high ranking distinguished visitors visit the local area last weekend. As usual, Team Charleston rose to the occasion by performing in an outstanding fashion with everything from security to expertly handling their baggage detail. Special thanks to our outstanding protocol staff for ensuring everything went smoothly.

Thirty-six honorary commanders and base, group and squadron commanders met for lunch on Monday at the Mills House. The event paid tribute to Team Charleston for their accomplishments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I was pleased to see such strong community support.

Following that luncheon, we were visited by the Berkeley County Delegation who read a proclamation supporting the men and women of Team Charleston at Monday's staff meeting. Representing Berkeley County were state Sens. William Mesher and Larry Groomes and state Reps. Shirley Hinson, James Law, Amos Gourdine, Tom Danzler and James Merrill. Elaine Morgan, Chief Executive Officer of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce and the 437 LG Honorary Commander, accompanied them and helped arrange the presentation.

Charleston AFB held a Year of the Warrior Spirit Warrior Day on Tuesday. We held two events: a bowling competition that began at 1 p.m. at the bowling alley, followed by the YOWS briefers at the Charleston Club at 3 p.m. I presented YOWS coins to **Tech. Sgt. Manuel Trejo Jr.**, 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron, and to **Master Sgt. Robert Mundis**, 437<sup>th</sup> Transportation Squadron. Trejo photographed many facets of our war on terrorism while Mundis supported the C-17 stage operation at Sigonella Naval Air Station, Italy. They are outstanding mobility warriors!

We had a large turnout of people and it was a rewarding way to celebrate the warrior spirit. Special thanks to **Maj. Pat Dowling** and his committee for their efforts. Both events offered a great way to enhance camaraderie and esprit de corps, and I encourage everyone to keep participating.

The Air Force released the results of the senior master sergeant promotions Wednesday morning, and 14 of Team Charleston's finest will be promoted. Congratulations on your achievement. See the article on page 3 for a complete listing of our newest senior master sergeants.

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney Jr., commander, 82<sup>nd</sup> Training Wing, Air Education and Training Command, Sheppard AFB, Texas, will visit with members of the 373<sup>rd</sup> Training Squadron, Detachment 5, today for his first official site visit since assuming command. However, General Rooney is no stranger to Charleston AFB, having previously served as the commander, 437 LG, from August 1995 to July 1997. He is also a graduate of Charleston Southern University.

It was my honor to participate in the Second Annual Retiree Activities Program Awards luncheon on Thursday at the Charleston Club. Our retiree workforce saves the base thousands of dollars and performs key support functions for the base from helping customers in the base clinic to manning the 437 SFS Pass and ID office. We appreciate what they do to help this base.

Receiving commendations for their years of service were **Thomas Loftain, Loren Hall, Edward Cotter, Joseph Gatti, June Briggs, Elrod Rice, John McDonagh, Forrest Ott, Herbert Rumph, Elizabeth Dupont, John Dupont, Charles Barksdale, William Chaney, Jack Linder, Joseph Mestnik, James Millet, Paul Canant, Richard Thomas, John Romagnano and Joseph Devito.**

The American Red Cross held a banquet at the North Charleston Convention Center on Thursday to honor some of our people. 437 SFS members **Staff Sgt. William LeMaster, Senior Airman Ryan Lowry, Staff Sgt. Mary Laurenzi, Staff Sgt. Scott Shafer and Tech. Sgt. Donald Covert**, 437 CES, were nominated for the American Red Cross-Neighborhood Heroes Award. Congratulations to each of our nominees.

Coming up next week, the base will receive an award honoring the Artificial Reef Team on March 26 at the Charleston Area Convention Center. The base is receiving this award for its efforts to find an environmentally friendly way to dispose of construction debris. In preparing for the arrival of the first C-17, the base had to tear up and replace the parking apron on its flight line, generating 30,000 tons of concrete rubble.

About 18,000 tons were recycled and 12,000 tons required disposal offsite. Instead of sending this material to a landfill at great cost, the base worked out a partnership with a number of federal and state agencies to help create two artificial reefs. The material was placed at these two reef sites, creating over 200,000 cubic feet of high quality marine habitat.

Additionally, Joseph G. Diamond, director of the Air Force Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., will visit March 27 to participate in a seminar for women owned businesses. About 20-30 businesses throughout the Southeast will participate in the one-day seminar. The conference is designed to locate more women-owned businesses in the fields of base services, construction, and General Services Administration services requirements and to provide these companies the opportunity to learn of future requirements from government purchasers.

As you can tell from all the activity above, the wing remains extremely busy while at the same time continuing to support Operation Enduring Freedom. Because of our heavy operations tempo and high number of deployed people, we've decided to not host an open house this year. We're just too busy supporting the war effort.

Keep looking for opportunities to bring the community out here and explain what we do. Do your part to talk about our great achievements and the important role that we play, whether that is speaking to your son or daughter's school or just helping to spread the word to your off-base neighbors. You define pride, professionalism and passion for who we are and what we do, and everyday I'm so glad that I'm part of the finest airlift wing on the face of the planet!

*What sets us apart?*

# Air Force secret of success lies in trust, integrity, professionalism

By Lt. Col. John Norton

437 OSS commander

The Air Force, along with other military organizations, relies completely on our unique culture to achieve so many amazing feats day in and day out. It's not just the fact that we're disciplined professionals, but I also believe the trust we have in each other is the secret to our success.

Where does this trust come from? The personal integrity we demand of each other is the bottom line.

What attributes set us apart from civilian organizations and make us so unbeatable? Perhaps most obvious is that we're not a business. Our mission is not to make money, but to put our lives on the line, if

necessary, to defend our nation and its values. Gen. Ronald Fogelman, our former chief of staff, called this the "unlimited liability" clause. The stakes of our mission are high, and we commit ourselves to making whatever sacrifices are needed. There is no room for a "time clock" mentality in the Air Force, especially in time of war.

Second, we are professionals who demand the highest standards of each other. We trust each other to do our jobs. Sometimes we trust each other with our lives. The pilot does not check the mechanic's

work, but knows the aircraft would not be signed off as flyable unless all maintenance was done right. We rely on each other every day with high-stakes responsibilities

because we're all professionals who are trained right and held accountable for our job performance. We know it will be done right the first time.

Next, personal integrity is the most essential characteristic of Air Force members.

Integrity means a lot more than

honesty. It means doing what you say and delivering on every commitment. We admit when we make a mistake, and we don't exaggerate our accomplishments or take credit for other's deeds. When we meet someone wearing an Air Force uniform, we feel an affinity for them and know they'll treat us right because of this integrity.

Finally, we belong to an organization that takes care of its own. We are like an extended family



that cares about each other. We know when it's our turn to deal with a personal crisis, our Air Force family will close ranks around us and offer whatever support we need. We're like-minded people who understand each other.

The bond of shared service and

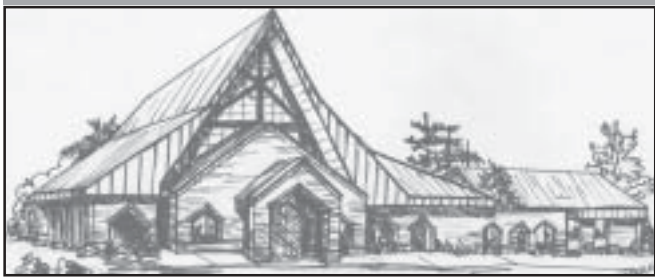
shared experience is strong.

These qualities, unlimited liability, professionalism, integrity and taking care of our own, are hard to find in civilian organizations. If there is a secret to the remarkable achievements we've made as an Air Force, these characteristics are the key. They provide our strength, and these are the intangible qualities we will all miss when we return to the civilian world.

U.S. AIR FORCE



## Chapel events



**107 Arthur Drive**

**Office hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**Phone:** 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

## Lenten and Easter Services

### Catholic Services

**Holy Thursday:** Thursday, 5:30 p.m.

**Good Friday:** March 29, 5:30 p.m.

**Holy Saturday:** March 30, 7:30 p.m.

**Easter Sunday:** March 31, 9:30 a.m.

**Stations of the Cross:** Every Tuesday during Lent, 5:30 p.m.

### Protestant Services

**Maundy Thursday:** Thursday, 7 p.m.

**Good Friday:** March 29, noon.

**Easter Sunrise:** March 31, 6 a.m. (Service will be held on the rear lawn of the Chapel.)

**Easter Service:** March 31, 11 a.m.

### Ecumenical Activities

**Soup and Bread Luncheon:** Every Wednesday during Lent, noon.

## Movie schedule

**Admission prices:**

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

**Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.**



**Tonight, 7:30 p.m.**

***"Snow Dogs" – Cuba Gooding Jr.***

When a Miami dentist finds out he's been named in a will, he travels to Alaska to claim his inheritance. Once he gets there, his dreams turn to mush. He discovers he's been left a mischievous team of sled dogs. **(PG) 99 minutes**

**Saturday and March 29, 7:30 p.m.**

***"Collateral Damage" – Arnold Schwarzenegger***

Firefighter Gordon Brewer is plunged into the dangerous world of international terrorism after he loses his family in a bombing credited to Claudio "The Wolf" Perrini. Frustrated with the official investigation, Brewer takes matters into his own hands, teaming up with an unlikely ally; the wife of the terrorist. **(R) 115 minutes**

**March 30, 2 p.m.**

***"Big Fat Liar" – Paul Giamatti***

Jason is a 14-year old who thinks on his feet. When he has to prove that Hollywood producer Marty Wolf stole his class paper and is turning it into a blockbuster movie, he is ready for battle. **(PG) 88 minutes**

**March 30, 7:30 p.m.**

***"Rollerball" – Chris Klein***

Jonathan is the most popular player in Rollerball. Things go wrong when Rollerball's creator, Petrovich, realizes that serious on-court accidents bring higher ratings. **(PG-13) 100 minutes**

# Fitness & Sports

## MXS, SFS take Commander's Trophy

**By Senior Airman  
Jason Smith**  
*437 AW Public Affairs*

The 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron and 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron were awarded the Commander's Trophy, for large and small unit respectively, Monday during wing stand up.

The competition for the trophies usually begins with the kick-off of either the intramural bowling or

football season and runs until the completion of the golf or tennis season.

According to Steve Parrish, Fitness and Sports Center director, squadrons are awarded points in the categories of intramural participation, league play and championship play throughout the nine-sport season. At the end, the squadron with the most points, having 251 or more active-duty members assigned, and the squadron with the most points, having 250 or less active-duty members assigned, are awarded the trophies in the large and small unit categories.

The 437 MXS participated in all sports, won a runner-up title in volleyball and earned 122 points to capture the large unit trophy. The 437 SFS won two league championships, two base championships

and two runner up titles, with a total of 137 points, to claim the small unit trophy.

While he was excited about the win, Staff Sgt. Rodney Nesbitt, 437 SFS intramural sports representative, said he wasn't totally surprised by his unit's win.

"I knew we had a real good chance," said Nesbitt. "We strive to be the best in everything we do."

Participation was the key for the MXS victory, according to Lt. Col. Herbert Phillips, 437 MXs commander. He said the men and women of the maintenance squadron never cease to amaze him.

"The teamwork, and comraderie they display in every sport is outstanding," said Phillips. "To win this trophy two years running is a tribute to our players, their coaches and their winning attitudes. They all take 'MXS - Only the best,' to new heights, every single day."



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky*  
**Maj. Jeffrey Hunt (left), 437 SFS commander, and Master Sgt. Robert Henneman, 437 MXS, each received a Commander's Trophy on behalf of their squadrons.**



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements*

### High five

**Col. Karl Young, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing vice commander, gets a congratulatory high-five from Master Sgt. Larry Wallace, 437 AW. Tuesday was the Year of the Warrior Spirit Day at Starlifter Lanes. Each group entered two teams in the tournament. The 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group took the top spot. A different YOWS event will be held every month until August.**